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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/609,458	06/27/2003	Edwin Bolduan	ZTP00P12059	6591

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EXAMINER
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STINSON, FRANKIE L

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1746

DATE MAILED: 07/29/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/609,458

Applicant(s)

BOLDUAN ET AL.

Examiner

FRANKIE L. STINSON

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 February 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 19-23 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 18 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 2-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

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1. In view of the telephone interview of July 11, 2005, This Office Action supersedes the Office Action dated April 19, 2005, which is hereby vacated.

2. The indicated allowability of claims 14 and 15 is withdrawn in view of the newly discovered reference(s) to either Runde (U. S. Pat. No. 2,868,004) or Candor et al. (U. S. Pat. No. 3,491,387), Feast et al. (U. S. 4,997,000) and Manuel (U. S. Pat. No. 3,827,262. Rejections based on the newly cited reference(s) follow.

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 14-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by either Runde et al. or Candor et al.

Re claim 14 note that Runde and Candor each disclose a washing machine for cleaning laundry items comprising: a housing (unnumbered in Runde, 21 in Candor) an air stream device (88 in Runde, see col. 9, lines 31-55 in Candor) disposed at said housing for producing an air stream; a transporting device (4 in Runde, 37 in Candor) disposed in said housing for moving at least one item of laundry within said housing; an air stream directing device (92 in Runde, 99 in Candor) disposed in said housing for directing the air stream into at least one of the laundry items (the articles in each are porous and thusly, the air stream inherently is directed into the article) and disposed in said housing and a rinsing device (see fig. 12 in Runde and see col. 8, line 57 through

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col. 9, line 3 in Candor) disposed in said housing for supplying rinsing water to the at least one laundry item disposed in said housing.

Re claim 15 note that Runde and Candor each disclose a washing machine for cleaning laundry items comprising: a housing (unnumbered in Runde, 21 in Candor) an air stream device (88 in Runde, see col. 9, lines 31-55 in Candor) disposed at said housing for producing an air stream; a transporting device (4 in Runde, 37 in Candor) disposed in said housing for moving at least one item of laundry within said housing; an air stream directing (92 in Runde, 99 in Candor) device disposed in said housing for directing the air stream into at least one of the laundry items (the articles in each are porous and thusly, the air stream inherently is directed into the article) and disposed in said housing and a water removal device (41 in Runde, 48 in Candor) for preliminary of water from the at least one laundry item disposed in said housing.

Re claim 17, note that Runde and Candor each disclose a washing machine for cleaning laundry items comprising: a housing (unnumbered in Runde, 21 in Candor), means (88 in Runde, see col. 9, lines 31-55 in Candor) for producing an air stream disposed at said housing; means (4 in Runde and 37 in Candor) for carrying at least only laundry within said housing; means (92 in Runde, 99 in Candor) for directing the air stream into the laundry items disposed in said housing (the articles in each are porous and thusly, the air stream inherently is directed into the article as well) and means (41 in Runde, 48 in Candor) disposed in said housing for preliminary water removal of at least one laundry item disposed in said housing. Re claim 16, Runde and Candor both disclose a drying configuration as claimed.

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5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 2-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Manuel (U. S. Pat. 3,827,262) in view of either Feast et al. (U. S. Pat. No. 4,997,000) or Smith et al. (U. S. Pat. No. 2,732,701).

Re claims 14, 15 and 17, Manuel is cited disclosing a washing machine for cleaning laundry items comprising: a housing (see fig. 1) a transporting device (14) disposed in said housing for moving at least one item of laundry within said housing; a rinsing device (70, 72) disposed in said housing for supplying rinsing water to the at least one laundry item disposed in said housing a water removal device (22, 23, 28) for preliminary of water from the at least one laundry item disposed in said housing, that differs from the claims only in the recitation of the air stream device for producing an air stream and an air stream directing device for directing the air stream into the laundry article. Smith and Feast are each cited disclosing in a device for treating laundry items, an arrangement of producing an air stream (152 in Smith and see col. 8, lines 3-18) and an air stream directing device ("C" in Smith and 17 in Feast). It therefore would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to modify the device of Manuel, to include an air stream producing and directing device as taught by either Smith or Feast, since Manuel suggests the use a drying section (col. 4, lines 41-46). It is common in the art to wash a load of laundry and subsequently dry the same for the user to wear

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immediately or shortly thereafter. Re claim 2, Manuel discloses transporting device as claimed. Re claims 3-5, Manuel discloses the hanger-shaped carrier, bearing device or dummy as claimed. Re claim 6, Feast discloses the second air stream disposed for directing the air stream to the outside of the laundry item. Re claims 7 and 9, Manuel discloses the controllable conveyor having a plurality of carriers. Re claim 8, Manuel discloses the chain. Re claim 10, Smith discloses the conveyor controlled as claimed (see col. 8, line 41 through col. 9 line 25). Re claim 11, Manuel, Smith and Feast disclose the cabinet. Re claim 12, Manuel discloses the wetting device (50, 52, 54). Re claim 13, Manuel discloses the liquid dispenser (40). Re 16, Manuel discloses a drying configuration as claimed

7. Claim 18 stands allowed.

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. In Richardson, Haberstump, Gould, Wales, European Patent Office '726, Germany'719, Santos, European Patent Office '394, Kenreich and Bold, note the washing and drying means.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to FRANKIE L. STINSON whose telephone number is (572) 272-1308. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 5:30 am to 2:00 pm and some Saturdays from approximately 5:30 am to 11:30 am.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Barr, can be reached on (571) 272-1700. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

fls



FRANKIE L. STINSON  
Primary Examiner  
GROUP ART UNIT 1746